

CHRISTIANS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF GOD

Christians Unrealistic Expectations of God

December 1, 2019

What makes a Christian a vessel of honor, sanctified and useful for the Master (JESUS), and prepared for every good work? We read in **2 Timothy 2:19-21** the following: “*19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of [a]Christ depart from iniquity.” 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, [b]sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”*

Jesus is saying that to be a vessel of honor, you have to cleanse yourself of any sin that would lead to dishonor which is likened to wood and clay and to depart from iniquity. Is there anything dishonorable in your life today that would hinder you from being a vessel of honor?

Jesus prayed for His disciples in **John 17:17-19** saying; “*17 Sanctify[a] them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.*”

Jesus emphasizes sanctification and truth three times in these verses. Sanctification is a prerequisite in your life to be a vessel of honor. We read more about this in the [NKJV Study Bible 17:17](#) *Sanctify means “to set apart.” There are two ways to understand this statement: (1) as separate for holiness, or (2) as set apart for service. According to the first view, Jesus was praying not only that the disciples should be kept from evil, but that they should advance in holiness. However in v. 18, sanctification seems to refer to the disciples’ mission, indicating that sanctify may also mean that Jesus was setting apart His disciples for this. Your word is truth is a strong statement of Jesus’ confidence in the veracity of Scripture. People’s opinions may vary, and experiences are notoriously untrustworthy, but God’s Word always remains true.*”

God’s word does not change or shift; He makes a Law and He doesn’t break it. We read that abstaining from sexual sins leads to sanctification. It says in **1 Thessalonians 4:1-8** “*Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; 2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. 7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. 8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who[a] has also given us His Holy Spirit.*”

How many people have been defrauded in the body of Christ by sexual immorality? It went on in the early church and continues today...but it is sin and ought not to be in the body of Christ. The Lord’s promise is that He will avenge those who practice this. The Christian is to live a sanctified and holy life and whoever rejects these two prerequisites, rejects God. That’s how seriously God sees this.

Jesus says in **Matthew 7:13-14**; “*13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 [a]Because narrow is the gate and [b]difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*”

It is very sobering what Jesus has said here; few find the way of life because it requires a life walking the straight and narrow path.

CHRISTIANS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF GOD

I ask you again; what makes a Christian a vessel of honor, sanctified and useful for the Master (JESUS), and prepared for every good work? It's the truth in God's word that will cause you to get rid of those things in your life that dishonor your walk with Christ, no ifs, no buts or maybes.

So if sanctification is a part of obtaining salvation, then why is it that so many Christians place unrealistic expectations on God to retract on His word and save the soul of a backslidden family member or loved one that has died in their sin, be it through an accident, drug overdose, suicide, sickness, etc.

You'll hear Christians say that he or she went onto be with the Lord in Heaven, but a more realistic expectation of Jesus would be to say; that when they died, they have gone on to the Lord to be judged. It's also unrealistic to say that they went to hell, if you don't know what happened to them while they were dying and what their last words were. Maybe they called on the name of Jesus to forgive them and save them.

It's unrealistic to expect God to save a soul of someone whom you have no knowledge of having repented of their sins before dying, regardless of their previous salvation prayer in the past that was not presently lived out while they were alive as a Christian. There will be many standing before Jesus when they die who have prayed the salvation prayer but didn't sanctify themselves and didn't live holy lives but continued in a lifestyle of sin.

Untimely deaths are often so instant that there is no time to repent, and I think it's important for Christians to be realistic and not place unrealistic expectations on Jesus to go back on His word. That's why it says, *Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.* (2 Corinthians 6:2)

The doctrine of eternal security (once saved always saved) has placed unrealistic expectations on Jesus to go back on His word and save the soul of an unrepentant Christian who is backslidden in sin. It's a delusion to think God would go against His own Law regarding salvation.

The Apostle John says in **1 John 1:5-10**; *"5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."*

If someone has prayed the prayer of salvation, but has continued in darkness – sin – it says that they've lied because they've not practiced the truth. Christianity is conditional; it's turning away, repenting, giving up a lifestyle of sin, and turning to Christ, living holy and sanctified to Him.

1 John 2:1-6 continues saying; *"2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. 3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God [a] is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."*

Jesus is righteous in all He does, He is the righteous one, He's not a Law-breaker, double-minded or unstable. How do you have the assurance that you know Him? You keep His commandments and don't be a Law-breaker. Your confession of faith in Jesus and repentance at the altar is good, but then you have to keep His commandments. Maybe you say like the Apostle John said in this verse, that you 'know Him', you went to Bible camp, Bible college, served Him faithfully for a season, but if you do not abide in Him, stay in the truth

CHRISTIANS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF GOD

and keep His commandments, he says that you're a liar. You see, Jesus died in order that the righteous requirements of the law could be met in you, he's given you everything to live godly and holy and His grace is sufficient for you and you're without excuse.

Some would say that this sounds legalistic because Jesus did everything on the cross. He did conquer all on the cross by defeating the devil and took the keys of death, hell and the grave. He also sent the Holy Spirit to you to help you keep the commandments.

By John saying that, "*I know Him,*" and *does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*", questions the validity of their salvation. When you're saved, your heart is to keep the commandments of God, the Holy Spirit is inside you to bring conviction so when you do sin, you repent and not continue in sin. You're supposed to walk and talk like Jesus did and keep His commandments.

John is stating that there are those Christians who repent and there are those who claim to be Christian and don't repent. One is walking in truth and one is walking in lies. Both profess to be Christians, but one is a Law-breaker and the other not.

John continues to expose sin and the child of God in **1 John 3:4-9** by saying; "*4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. 5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. 6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.*"

Temptations come in our lives to sin, but we have the power to resist temptation in Jesus' name, so John is showing that the one who continues in a lifestyle of sin, is of the devil. Either they were never a Christian to start out with or they've backslidden and they're back in the devil's camp.

That's why Jesus could say in **Matthew 7:21-23**; "*21 'Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*" Remember, *sin* is lawlessness.

Jesus also says in **Matthew 13:40-42**; "*40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*"

We've said this repeatedly that it's not God's will to cast any sinner into hell for eternity, for He's willing that none perish but that all be saved. But he's given each person a free will to choose, so if they choose to continually break God's Laws and live as a Law-breaker, God has no choice because He can't retract or recant on His commandments.

It's unrealistic to believe that God would retract on His word; it would make Him out to be a Law-breaker of His own Law. It's time to repent of portraying God as a Law-breaker with regards to him saving the soul of your backslidden loved ones, friends and family members who have died in their sin. It's time to have a realistic expectation of God as a Lawgiver who does not go back on His word, it's time to repent of eternal security and cheap grace doctrines that have got you to believe a lie and make Jesus out to be a Law-breaker of His own Laws.

CHRISTIANS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF GOD

Hebrews 10:26-31 says; “26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he **was** sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” [a]says the Lord. And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Have you been insulted before? No one likes it. That’s what is done to the Holy Spirit, Jesus and Father God by those who continue in lawlessness **after** they were sanctified, or born again. You trample down the blood of Jesus and the new covenant he made for you, considering it unholy, no better than the blood of a malefactor. Shouldn’t God then, have full authority to render His most sever judgment? Of course He should.

What makes a Christian a vessel of honor, sanctified and useful for the Master (JESUS), and prepared for every good work? It comes down to this; He gave His Word, He died on a cross, He gave you the ability to live an honorable life, He gave you the power of the Holy Spirit to keep the Law to give honor to Him. His word is truth. He is the one who gives you the ability to walk a sanctified life, to submit your free will to Him to walk holy.